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Infrastructure fears as housing row continues to rumble

BID TO BUILD 895 HOUSES



Crossing the finishing line

Avril Lawton takes part in the dressing-up race as part of Banbury's Community Games at the weekend. See page two for more pictures and the story in full

By Oliver Evans

A DEVELOPER is still pushing for almost 900 homes south of Banbury amid a row over rural developments around the town.

Barwood Developments Limited is urging Cherwell District Council (CDC) to back 895 homes either side of the Bloxham Road, south of Banbury.

The firm has already submitted formal plans for 145 homes at part of the site south of Salt Way.

It is now calling on the council to include the 895 homes as part of work to decide where more than 13,000 district homes should go by 2031.

The latest list of sites will be released next week and will then be subject to public consultation.

Council bosses hope that by backing sites, councillors will have stronger reasons for refusing inappropriate estate plans.

Sites backed by council leaders in May include 1,050 south of the train station, 400 west of Bretch Hill and 400 north of Hanwell Fields.

Barwood land and operations executive Sam Dorian said: "Land to the south of Banbury offers the most logical and sustainable location to accommodate the future growth of Banbury."

The "sustainable urban extension to the town" could include a country park, neighbourhood centre and primary school, he said.

Barwood has appealed to the independent Planning Inspectorate to make a decision on the 145 homes as CDC has yet to make a ruling.

But Mr Dorian said: "There is currently no intention for Barwood to submit any further planning applications on this land."

Lansdown Close resident Harry Barrett, whose home backs on to the proposed Salt Way site, said 895 homes was far too many.

He said: "The infrastructure around here just wouldn't handle it."

■ continued on page 2

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Banbury Cake

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Community sporting event celebrates the end of 2012 Olympics

Big fun and games

By Oliver Evans

AVRIL Lawton got into the swing of things in the last in a series of community games events in Banbury.

She took part in a dressing-up race at Sunday's CV and ER 2012 Community Games at Church View, Banbury.

Visitors enjoyed races, juggling skittles, Aunt Sally and tug of war event, held to capitalise on the success of the London 2012 Olympic Games.

The 62-year-old Church View resident attended with her husband, daughter, son-in-law and grandson, who all took part in events.

She said: "It was good fun. It was lovely for the kids."

Cherwell District Council has also held other events in Banbury, Kidlington and Bicester this month.



Clockwise from top, the men's potato and spoon race; William Morley, three, and Hannah Loveridge, two, in the children's event; Avril Lawton wins the women's race

Developer continuing to push for 895 homes

■ continued from page 1

"It is so tight with the amount of traffic, to increase that considerably would be just ridiculous," he added.

Developers have put forward plans for homes in villages such as Adderbury and Bodicote as the council has not agreed its preferred sites and is missing a key Government housing target.

Banbury MP Sir Tony Baldry has said sites where CDC has given planning permission should count towards the housing target, which says about 3,350 need to be built every five years.

Permission is in place for 4,286, but just 2,361 are expect-

ed from struggling developers by 2017.

The council said permissions only counted towards the target if there was a "realistic prospect" homes would be built and it would not put this above 2,361.

In a statement released last week, it said: "An under-supply of deliverable sites is not unique to Cherwell and has been problematic for many authorities, due to the effect of national economic conditions on house-building."

"As conditions improve it is anticipated that the rate of housing delivery will increase and the district's five-year supply position will improve."

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Pupils pick up results and many celebrate reaching university

School bucks trend with A-Level record



Banbury School's Jack Reed and Michael Akinyemi celebrate; right, Shannon Boland; below, Ben James is congratulated by executive principal Dr Fiona Hammans



By Oliver Evans



SCHOOLS and colleges reported improved A-Level results as nervous youngsters got their hands on their exam scores.

Headteachers praised hard-working students amid a UK drop in A* and A grades, the first time in more than two decades.

Of Banbury School's 105 students, 22 per cent got those top grades, the same as last year, while 46 per cent got A*-B, up from 41 per cent.

Some 76 per cent got A*-C, up from 66 per cent last year, helping the school achieve its best ever results.

Executive principal Dr Fiona Hammans said: "The number of A* grades has increased significantly this year demonstrating high-quality teaching, but most importantly, impressive effort throughout the courses and full preparation for the exams from the students themselves."

"The community should be proud of their achievements."

Among the top performers was Ben James, who is to study medicine at the University of

Leicester, after getting A*s in maths, chemistry and biology.

The 18-year-old said: "I worked hard and if you work hard you get your just rewards."

"Medicine is a brilliant career, there is so much variance and opportunity."

He will be joined at the university by Shannon Boland, 18, set to study psychology after getting an A* in the subject and a B in English literature and language and a C in biology.

She said: "I want to be a therapist, I want to help people. The school was really good, I made a lot of friends there."

Neighbouring Blessed George Napier Catholic School saw a boost in A*-A results, from 28

per cent last year to 35 per cent this year. Its A*-B score was up four per cent to 59 per cent and 99 per cent got A*-E grades.

Deputy headteacher Clare Smith said: "It is wonderful, we are really delighted. The 59 per cent is a school record."

"It is a tremendous amount of hard work, we have put a lot of additional work in, a lot of intervention."

Yet while youngsters were "very motivated" by university, the number applying was down as they face rising fees, she said.

She said: "It is definitely because of the fees and the anxiety of leaving university with enormous debts."

Oxford & Cherwell Valley

College reported strong results at its Broughton Road, Banbury and Oxford campuses. Some 47 per cent got A*-B, up from 40 per cent in 2011, while 76 per cent got A*-C, up six per cent.

Principal Sally Dicketts said: "I am thrilled that our students have done so well, and in particular that our A*-B results are up by seven per cent."

"It is so important now for young people not only to pass their A-Levels but also to achieve high grades."

It will hold an advice day at Banbury today and tomorrow from 10am to 4pm. For information call 01865 551556.

Some 23 per cent of Chenderit School's 136 students got A or A*, while 82 per cent got A*-C.

Headteacher Graham Tyrer said: "These results represent such hard work and commitment."

"It means the futures our students had dreamed of can now be realised."

North Oxfordshire Academy's results were not available at the time of going to press.

■ See next week's *Banbury Cake* for full coverage of today's GCSE results.

InBRIEF

Caravan fire is tackled

■ **BANBURY:** A caravan was severely damaged by fire in the early hours of Thursday, August 16.

The blaze occurred in Station Approach at about 12.30am.

Firefighters from Banbury and Deddington attended the fire, which was not thought to have been started deliberately.

Man admits axe offence

■ **BANBURY:** A 20-year-old man has admitted possessing a tile axe in public.

Samuel Harvey, of Bretch Hill, Banbury, appeared at Oxford Crown Court on Friday and admitted possessing an article with a blade or point.

The incident took place on April 25.

Harvey was bailed to be sentenced on September 7.

Pub reaches awards final

■ **AYNHO:** The Great Western Arms is to go through to the final of The Great British Pub Awards.

It won the Best Tenanted/Leased Pub in the East and West Midlands and Wales region of the awards, run by *The Publican's Morning Advertiser* magazine.

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FIRST LESSON FREE!!



Pedestrian is injured in hit-and-run collision

A MAN in his 30s was injured in a hit-and-run crash in Highlands, Banbury.

The pedestrian was crossing the road at about 3.15pm on Thursday, August 9, when a dark blue car came out of Harlequin Way and hit him, causing him to go on to the

bonnet and hit the windscreen. Police said the man suffered tissue damage to his back and was treated at the town's Horton General Hospital.

The car, believed to be a Ford Fiesta with alloy wheels and a green insignia on

the body work, did not stop at the scene.

The driver was described as a white man in his 20s, with mousey brown hair.

Anyone with information should call police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

InBRIEF**Garden home is approved**

SOULDERN: Plans for a detached five-bedroom home in the garden of a historic property have been approved by councillors, against the wish of planning officers.

Cherwell District Council planning officer Gemma Magnuson said the plan for the Grade II listed The Hermitage, in High Street, would harm the village's "historic settlement pattern". But councillors approved the plan last Thursday.

Have a go at rush hockey

BANBURY: A new type of hockey is coming to the town next month.

Rush Hockey uses a larger ball, a smaller pitch and goal and fewer players.

A new informal league will first meet on Monday, September 10, at Blessed George Napier Catholic School and Sports College in Addison Road.

Cherwell District Council has helped organise the league and deputy leader George Reynolds, said: "This is a fantastic chance for people to have a go at a new sport."

Call 01295 221720.

Lots to eat as town's produce fare gets a delicious new partner

Food glorious food



Clockwise from above, Richard Hornsby; Lesley Sotham with her Jubilee Cake; Wenjun Yu photographs flowers; 19-month-old Rosie Herbert decorates a cake

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By Oliver Evans

BANBURY was awash with food and all the colours of summer at the weekend.

Banbury Town Council's first Food Fair was held in Market Place, along with the traditional Flower and Produce Show.

Among the county producers was Mary Healy, from North Aston Organics, who said: "It was fantastic, it was a lovely day, very hot."

Council park keeper Richard Hornsby showed off produce from a vegetable patch at People's Park, which volunteers work on every Thursday.

He said: "It went really well, we had a lot of interest from people who want to volunteer."

Masterchef finalist Andrew Kojima gave demonstrations while trophies were handed out for the best out of 71 horticultural efforts.

Visitors also enjoyed cake decorating and a Pimms area.

Council leader Kieron Mallon



said: "It was a day out for all the family to enjoy and remember. This show never fails to impress."

The council's next event is the annual Town Criers Championship and Banbury Organ Festival in the town centre on Saturday, September 1.



Reading charity wants grant for books

A READING charity for primary school children is hoping to get its hands on more books.

It is part of another application for money from the Banbury Cake's parent company which has been received this week.

Once again the Gannett Foundation is giving away up to £10,000 to charitable causes across Oxfordshire.

Assisted Reading for Children (ARCh) is hoping to get the full amount of money to buy 200 book

boxes. Jane Rendle, ARCh's development manager, said: "During the last year Newsquest Oxfordshire has been highlighting the poor standards of literacy within primary schools in the county. ARCh is addressing this need via our 200 volunteers, currently helping 600 needy Oxfordshire children."

The volunteers are each provided with a book box of 30 books and six games and offers one-to-one reading mentoring.

Charities and groups can apply for Gannett grants of between £5,000 and £10,000.

Religious or political groups, schools, hospitals, and general appeals are not eligible, nor are applications for salaries or running costs.

Applications must be in no later than 5pm on Friday, September 21. To find out more information and to submit an application, visit banburycake.co.uk/news/gannett-foundation/

£25,000 grant secures work with autism

A CHARITY can continue its work with autistic children, thanks to a £25,000 grant.

The Freemasons' Grand Charity has given the cash to Banbury-based Dogs for the Disabled's PAWS (Parents, Autism, Workshops and Support)

programme. The £130,000-a-year scheme has worked with more than 250 children around the UK since 2010.

It helps families choose the right pet and understand the benefit dogs can provide for autistic children.

Dogs for the Disabled chief executive Peter Gorbing said: "We are thrilled and grateful to the Grand Charity for enabling us to extend the positive impact of PAWS even further."

For more information call 01295 759830.

Rugby league final honour for musician

Trombonist is set to play at Wembley



Kristopher Reeder

KRISTOPHER Reeder is understandably excited to be playing at the Carnegie Challenge Cup Final at Wembley Stadium on Saturday – but he is not taking his rugby kit.

All he needs is his trusty bass trombone.

In front of 80,000 fans in the stands, and about three million others watching around the world, he will be playing the national anthem and other tunes with the Aveye Brass Band.

The match will see Leeds Rhinos take on Warrington Wolves.

By Pete Hughes

Mr Reeder, 27, of Middleton Cheney, said: "I have played the Royal Albert Hall and the Birmingham Symphony Hall, but this is probably the biggest gig I have ever done.

"I am really looking forward to it. Obviously I have done some pretty high-pressure shows, but it is going to be really enjoyable, and a great chance to meet the players."

He added: "I am more rugby union than league, but rugby's rugby."

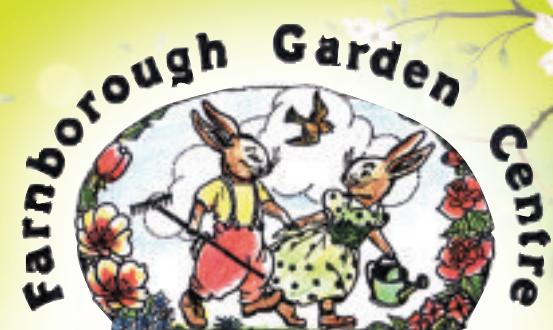
Mr Reeder grew up in Banbury, and was taught by the county music service and went to the Central Music School in Oxford and feels a strong attachment to the city.

He studied at the Royal Academy of Music in London, and has won competitions in Europe and the UK brass band championships.

Mr Reeder thinks that his instrument is growing in popularity.

"The bass trombone is definitely making a bit of a comeback, you can play it in most ensembles."

"Adele's band has one, and Michael Bublé has a brass band, as does Plan B."



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TIME TO START AFRESH Black, caring, African Epsom lady, 5'2", likes countryside, gardening, cooking and holidays, 50-70 for a long term relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 117888 or send a text to 80360

LISTEN TO YOUR HEART Happy go lucky Warminster female, 61, looking for a nice kind and reliable man to share good times together and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 111203

FIRENDS FIRST Intelligent, attractive Wiltshire female, 56, widow, brunette, 5'2", likes radio 4, reading, travel, art galleries and music, new to area and seeking a similar guy, GSOH, for company and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 120544

SOCIALIE SORT Tall, blonde Wiltshire girl, 62, enjoys cars, walks, gardening and more, searching for a sociable man, with an active lifestyle, for a loving and lasting relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 452750

BE YOURSELF Cuddly, bubbly, caring Kidlington widow, 62, enjoys days out, country walks, dining and theatre, searching for an interesting, honest, non-smoking man with GSOH, to add a little sparkle to life. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 124692 or send a text to 80360

HEADLINE NEWS Sincere, reliable Wiltshire lady, 56, likes dogs, travelling and good conversations, seeking an honest, reliable male, for company. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 124692 or send a text to 80360

MEANINGFUL TIMES Active, outgoing Trowbridge female, 57, loves cinema, seaside, travelling and animals, would like to meet a man for company leading to a possible relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 117215 or send a text to 80360

FRENDSHIP, MAYBE MORE... Sociable, active Witney woman, 62, GSOH, widow, attractive, likes meeting people, theatre, drinks, meals out and walking, seeking a similar man, caring and genuine, for friendship and maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 127066

KNOW WHAT MATTERS Upbeat, cultured, sophisticated Banbury lady, 62, own house and car, likes swimming and wondering about the countryside, would like to meet an up-lifting man, to fill in the gaps. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 123403 or send a text to 80360

Possible RELATIONSHIP Part-time language teacher from Kidlington, 63, widow, likes walking, gardening, places of interest, dancing, seeking a chatty man for conversations and to laugh together. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 115447 or send a text to 80360

CHANGES ON THE PINT? Country woman looking to meet a loving, dark-haired, slim man. I'm 63yrs old, 5'7", slim and fit, love being outside, walking and gardening. Marlow/Banbury/Witney Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 112240 or send a text to 80360

CHANGES ON THE PINT? Country woman looking to meet a loving, dark-haired, slim man. I'm 63yrs old, 5'7", slim and fit, love being outside, walking and gardening. Marlow/Banbury/Witney Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 112240 or send a text to 80360

HONEST RELATIONSHIP Non-smoking Bradford lady, 65, 5'5", slim-build, blue-eyes with a positive outlook, enjoy countryside, dancing, music, theatre, seeking a gent, 63-68, to enjoy similar interest. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 128404 or send a text to 80360

SEEKING THE RIGHT MAN Separated, attractive Witney female, 60, 5'2", curly, likes cooking, evenings, meals out, gardening, holidays, dry and dancing, with a male companion, caring and honest, for company and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 798804

SOMEONE EXACTLY LIKE YOU Caring, lovely, bubbly Bicester lady, 53, looking for a tall, kind, caring and romantic man for a lasting loving relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 109049 and send a text to 80360

SEEKING FOR YOURSELF Easygoing Swindon woman, 51, 5'5", own home/car, enjoys walking my dog, socialising and affection, seeks a tactile, loving man, for a warm and lasting relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 109049 and send a text to 80360

START LIVING AGAIN Friendly, fun Oxfordshire divorced mum, 51, grown up children, looking for love again and someone to share life with. Is the right man out there for me? Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 109049 and send a text to 80360

LEADING TO MORE? Genuine, happy Banbury woman, 66, GSOH, retired, widow, enjoys, cats, cinema, theatre, visiting places, meals out, gardening, holidays, dry and dancing, with a male companion, caring and honest. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 121137 or send a text to 80360

GENUINE AND CARING Oxfordshire widow, 60, 5'6", slender build, sociable, caring and well-travelled, searching for a genuine, professional guy, non-smoker, for friendship, maybe lasting love. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 466487

OVER THE MOON Oxfordshire widow, 70, 5'6", slender, dark hair, sociable and caring, well-travelled and attractive, seeking a guy who is caring, professional and considerate. Could you be the one? Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 467516

THAT SPECIAL PERSON Honest, bubbly female, 55, kind, loving, seeks fit+ male, for romance, companionship & lots more. Bicester. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 110670

I'LL TREAT YOU RIGHT Sincere Swindon woman, 54, GSOH, fun personality, loves nights out, socialising and music, seeks a friendly bloke, to share lots of good times and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 104377 and send a text to 80360

SEEKING THE RIGHT MAN Separated, attractive Witney female, 60, 5'2", curly, likes cooking, evenings, meals out, gardening, kisses and cuddles, looking for a non-smoking, clean-shaven man, for a loving relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 454288 or send a text to 80360

GREAT COMPANIONS Wiltshire widow, 73, likes music, theatre, travel and more, searching an easygoing gent, for companionship, friendship and maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 104917 or send a text to 80360

INTO THE SUNSET Friendly, sociable Oxford male, 51, polite, caring, solvent, likes gardening, sports, music, walking, cinema, nights out and cooking, seeking a bubbly and honest female, for company and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 123203 or send a text to 80360

THE FUTURE'S BRIGHT Divorced Abingdon male, 57, likes karaoke and socialising, would like to meet a decent woman, to enjoy good times with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 110649

SHARING GOOD TIMES Upbeat Burford widow, 57, own cars, works full time, likes days in and out, countryside walks, driving, looking for a similar woman for companionship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 126505 or send a text to 80360

MORE IN TIME Self-employed Witney male, 63, loves cinema, theatre, eating out and more, searching for a serious-minded lady, for a loving and supportive relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 109413 or send a text to 80360

KINDRED SPIRITS Presentable, educated chap, 65, enjoys the arts, history, places of interest, exploring towns/countryside on foot, wlm attractive, vivacious lady, for romance. Oxford. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 453567 or send a text to 80360

LET'S EXPLORE Abingdon male, 68, 5'9", medium build, easygoing and affectionate, looking for someone similar, to share fun and good times. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 119935 or send a text to 80360

BRING THE SPARK BACK Clever-Shane Thame male, 67, 6' medium-build, own bungalow, would like to meet a sociable man, who wishes to enjoy good times together. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 104993

ON THE WAY TO YOU Easygoing, friendly Didcot male, 65, enjoys walks, TV, cosy nights in, reading and socialising, seeks a friendly, active chap, 60-67, for company and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 104839

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CARING NATURE Witty, flexible and original Witney bloke, 58, looking to find a witty, helpful woman, for a special and lasting relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 111595

PASSION FLOWER Young looking Wallingford 59yr old, 5'9", dark hair, wears glasses, enjoys cinema, bowling, walks, cinema and dining, seeking a loving, loyal female, for a lasting relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 109799

LOVING LIFE Loyal, solvent North Oxfordshire gent, 66, 5'9", loves son and motorbike, coffee and theatre, searching for an attractive, interesting lady, 50-65, to share and explore interesting times. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 104998

NICE DAYS AHEAD Easygoing, non-smoking Abingdon widower, 70, 5'9", enjoys travel, pub meal and car boot sales, would like to meet a nice non-smoking lady, to settle down with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 125459 and send a text to 80360

SPEAK YOUR MIND Friendly, caring Banbury widower, 59, enjoys dog walks, country pursuits and travel, seeking an affectionate Spanish female, 40-60, to share life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 101122

NICEDAYS AHEAD Easygoing Oxford male, 59, slim-build, 5'8", likes cinema, swimming, country walks with my dogs, seeking an honest, caring lady, to spend quality times with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 116036 or send a text to 80360

SOU'L TO SOUL Divorced, active male, 77, looks younger, 5'5", N.S., i enjoys pub meals, car boot sales, crosswords and cosy times, wlm charming lady, to share quality times. Oxford area preferred. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 100937

ARE YOU THE ONE Easygoing Christian female, 40, 5'6", bubbly living in Devizes, thoughtful, caring, affectionate & young at heart, wlm like minded lady, for friendship/committed relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 107470 or send a text to 80360

THIS WORKS Cuddly Swindon lady, 47, easygoing and fun to be with, looking for friendship leading to more with a nice, friendly bubbly woman. Where are you? Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 851817 or send a text to 80360

BEST FRIENDS FOREVER Thoughtful, caring, placid Swindon female, 48, fit and outgoing, loves a healthy life style, seeking other straight females, for genuine friendship and good company. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 128139 or send a text to 80360

CONFIDENTLY YOURS Widowed chap, 60, 5'10", own home/business, Witney based, enjoys music, country walks, pubs, fishing, gardening, seeks outgoing female, to enjoy life again. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 122384 or send a text to 80360

CONFIDENTLY YOURS Widowed chap, 60, 5'10", own home/business, Witney based, enjoys music, country walks, pubs, fishing, gardening, seeks outgoing female, to enjoy life again. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 122384 or send a text to 80360

TIME FOR EACH OTHER Good-looking Abingdon male, 47, would like to meet a guy, for fun, good company and good company. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 115976 or send a text to 80360

ON THE WAY TO YOU Easygoing friend, 61, likes walking and dining, theatre, holidays, pubs, clubs, seeking a genuine female, for good times and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 104839

PUTTING THE SPARK BACK Easygoing, stocky built Oxford guy, 49, blue eyes, likes pub meals, enjoys walking, visits galleries, going to the cinema, eating out, walking and good conversation, wlm a female to share good times with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 104324 or send a text to 80360

MAKING IT HAPPEN Laid-back male, 56, 5'7", muscular build, looking for a fun female, 40-60, for fun, laughter & more. Reading, Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 104111

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RSPB's garden bird survey shows a decline in numbers in county Wet weather leads to a drop in wildlife



The RSPB's Andy Waters in Banbury's People's Park

A COLD, wet spring has been blamed for falling numbers of small garden birds in Oxfordshire this year.

An RSPB survey, compiled with the help of more than 1,000 county residents, has shown juvenile members of the thrush family have declined by more than a quarter compared with 2011.

The Make Your Nature Count results also showed sightings of house martins were down by almost 25 per cent and swifts were also down by about 10 per cent.

RSPB communications officer Andy Waters said: "They are very interesting results."

"With thrushes, robins and blackbirds, which are all part of the thrush family, they often get off to a very quick start, looking to nest as early as possible and searching for food for their chicks.

"Because of this they seem to

By Thom Airs

have suffered with a cold and wet spring.

"When they have to look for food farther away, their chicks get cold and starve."

"Swifts in particular have also been impacted by the cold and wet weather as they feed on insects in the air."

Some 1,076 Oxfordshire residents took part in the survey in the first week of June, logging the birds and other wildlife.

Mr Waters said: "Fortunately most of these birds can bounce back. If they have a bad year we often find they generally do better the following year because there are fewer of them."

"It's very difficult to link changing weather with bird numbers, but there's no doubt we are seeing a changing of nesting dates because of the changing climate,

it's definitely having an impact in Oxfordshire."

Other common animals spotted were grey squirrels, hedgehogs, muntjac deer, moles, badgers, roe deer and slow worms.

Mr Waters said: "It's fantastic that more than 1,000 people took part in Oxfordshire, and that shows the superb support we have locally."

"The more people that take part, the stronger the data becomes."

The 10 most common species seen in Oxfordshire were:

- House sparrow
- Starling
- Blackbird
- Woodpigeon
- Blue tit
- Goldfinch
- Collared dove
- Chaffinch
- Jackdaw
- Great tit

For more on the results visit rspb.org.uk/naturecount

InBRIEF

Building to be converted

■ BANBURY: An empty property will get a new lease of life as affordable apartments.

Cherwell District Council has announced an agreement with housing association A2 Dominion to bring 1 West Street back into use.

The former bedsit building lies empty and boarded-up, but could become affordable housing by next spring.

The agreement is part of the district council's 'Build!' programme, which helps people take a role in building their homes.

As part of the development, future residents will have the opportunity to decorate, fit kitchens and make other changes.

Event raises £24k in aid

■ BANBURY: A night of entertainment raised £24,468 for a foreign aid charity.

The dinner and music event at the General Foods Sports & Social Club in Spiceball Park Road earlier this month raised £12,234 for Islamic Relief.

This will be doubled by the Government after ministers pledged to match fundraising by the charity up to £5m.

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Woburn Standard Dual Motor Rise & Recline Chair
Was £1199
Now £899

Health Beds Natural Choice 3000 5'0 2 Drawer
Was £1549
Now £899

Lovell 4'6 Bedstead
Was £599
Now £439

Provence Dining Table & 6 Chairs
Was £1993 | Now £1299

Oakdale Dining Table & 6 Dining Chairs
Was £1999
Now £999

Stressless Paradise Reclining 2 Str
Was £3199 | Now £1299

Roger Matthewman, 36, of Dore Road, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, admitted drink-driving in Christchurch Court, Banbury, on May 6. Had 232 milligrams of alcohol in 100ml of urine, above the legal limit of 107 milligrams. Fined £110, a £15 victims' surcharge and £50 costs. Banned from driving for three years.

John Bolton, 43, of East Street, Banbury, admitted criminally damaging two front windows valued at £300 in Cromwell Road, Banbury, on July 11. Given a six-week daily curfew between the hours of 9pm and 7am and told to

Appearing before Banbury MAGISTRATES' Court

pay £50 costs and £300 compensation.

David Holland, 42, of Bretch Hill, Banbury, admitted possessing a small bag of cannabis (Class B) in Banbury on May 28. Given a 12-month conditional discharge and told to pay £85 costs.

Kevin Millar, 46, of Lennox Gardens, Banbury, admitted being drunk and disorderly in Lennox Gardens on July

11. Fined £200, a £15 victims' surcharge and £85 costs.

Nicky Anthistle, 28, of Wykham Place, Banbury, admitted being drunk and disorderly in George Street, Banbury, on February 18. Given an 18-month conditional discharge and told to pay £50 costs.

Lydia Aldworth, 29, of Kennedy

House, Orchard Way, Banbury, admitted criminally damaging a front door of unknown value in Kennedy House on July 10. Given a 12-month conditional discharge and told to pay £50 costs.

Thomas Callnon, 65, of The Square, Aynho, admitted drink-driving. Had 66 micrograms of alcohol in 100ml of breath, above the legal limit of 35

micrograms. Fined £240, a £15 victims' surcharge and £85 costs. Banned from driving for a year.

Alice Tonner, 23, of Courtington Lane, Bloxham, admitted drink-driving. Had 229 milligrams of alcohol in 100ml of blood, above the legal limit of 80 milligrams. Fined £200, a £15 victims' surcharge and £85 costs. Banned from driving for two years.

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■ Appeal for school sport funding to be reinstated
Call to cough up to secure the legacy of the Olympics

By Sam McGregor

THE head of school sports in North Oxfordshire is urging the Government to ride the wave of success from the Olympics and reinstate funding.

Two years ago, George Osborne announced Department for Education funding for school sport partnerships would be dropped as part of his controversial spending review.

But schools in North Oxfordshire clubbed together to fund the School Sports Partnership (SSP) until August 2013.

Now with the final year of the North Oxfordshire SSP looming, manager Carl Hamilton has called for the cash to be reinstated to help create a lasting Olympic legacy.

He oversees sport provision for 18,500 children aged five to 19, across 57 schools.

Mr Hamilton said: "The whole bid for the Olympic Games was won on the basis of legacy for young people."

"Unfortunately when the present Government came in to place it went totally against that."

"The SSP initiative has been truly inspirational and has been about inspiring a lot of youngsters to be more active and more healthy."

"The Government needs to reverse the policy it brought in over the last two years. It scaled down the school sports partnerships and that policy needs to be reversed."

He said trainee primary school teachers had a total of six hours' sports training before taking on a teaching post.

Mr Hamilton said: "Then they are put into school and expected



Carl Hamilton

to deliver this important part of the curriculum.

"How do they identify talented kids if they don't really know what they are looking for?"

When the partnership was set up in 2004, only 25 per cent of North Oxfordshire school children took part in at least 10 hours of sport a week. By 2010, the figure was 90 per cent.

It set up lunch and after-school sports activities, inter-school competitions, teacher training, created links to local sports clubs, trained sports co-ordinators and junior leaders, as well as funded visits by specialist coaches.

The Department of Education did not comment on SSP funding, but said in light of the Olympics a review to improve opportunities for state school pupils was under way.

■ Sports clubs in Oxfordshire are set to receive £707,000 in Olympic legacy grants through Sport England's Places People Play grant scheme.

These include Chadlington Sports Club, near Chipping Norton, which received £25,183 to refurbish its changing rooms.

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We look at loss of public houses around the district since 2007

'Publicans are just tax collectors now'



John Bellinger and his wife Trisha outside their old pub, The Bell Inn in Adderbury

FIFTY pubs in Oxfordshire have called last orders in the past five years, with campaigners blaming beer tax rises and supermarkets for choking the trade.

An Oxfordshire pub has closed every 36 days since 2007.

Beer fans say a 42 per cent rise in beer tax has put the industry in turmoil.

Tony Goulding, pubs officer at the Oxford branch of the Campaign for Real Ale (Camra), said supermarkets selling cheap booze, the recession, the introduction of the smoking ban in 2007, and a change of cultural habits had all hit the industry.

But he said the beer duty was a "crippling burden" for landlords.

He said: "It is scandalous that we are one of the worst in the world for beer tax."

The duty escalator, which raises beer tax annually by inflation plus two per cent, started in 2009 and will run until at least 2014.

Mr Goulding added: "I think we have

reached the worst times yet. Nothing is safe."

According to Camra, the following North Oxfordshire pubs have closed in the last five years:

- The Woolpack, Banbury (2010)
- The Blackstock Arms, Banbury (2009)
- The Unicorn, Banbury (2008)
- The Cricketers Arms, Banbury (2009)
- The Bishop's Blaize, Sibford Gower (2007)
- The Pioneer, Bicester (2009)
- The White Lion, Steeple Aston (2011)
- The George and Dragon, Fritwell (2009)
- The King's Head, Fritwell (2011).

After a lifetime working in pubs, John Bellinger quit the trade last year.

The 58-year-old left The Bell Inn in Adderbury in April after six years.

He is now chairman of the North Oxfordshire branch of Camra and a bus driver for Oxford Bus Company.

As an 18-year-old he got his first job

behind the bar at the Littlemore British Legion club. Since he has been landlord at eight pubs.

But he said he was forced to leave the trade, blaming the rise in beer tax introduced in 2009.

He said: "Since that was introduced, the beer duties have increased by 42 per cent."

"Publicans are tax collectors now."

He said the smoking ban and the recession were giving people more reasons not to visit pubs.

He added: "The traditional pub is the heart of the community. It's where people go, not just to drink and eat, but for company and to meet friends.

"But people don't have the money and they resent paying more for their beer than they did a few years ago."

White Horse Camra chairman Neil Crook said pubs were surviving, but the successful ones were those free from pub company leases.

He said: "Pubs need the freedom to make the choices on what beers they buy and what they pay."

InBRIEF

Chalets plan is rejected

■ CLAYDON: Plans for three chalets and garages in the garden of a home have been rejected on appeal.

Cherwell District Council threw out the plan for the rear of Far Close in Crossings Lane last year over its impact on neighbours, visual impact on the area and highway safety.

Applicant Nigel Gardner appealed to the independent Planning Inspectorate, which upheld the council's decision.

It said although the plan would not have an "unacceptable effect" on road safety, this was "significantly and demonstrably outweighed" the impact on the area.

Store staff help homes

■ BANBURY: Staff from Midcounties Co-operative helped spruce up two care homes in the town.

They redecorated the lounge at Green Pastures Christian Nursing Home in The Hawthorns and worked on an overgrown garden at Agnes Court in Warwick Road. It was part of a Co-op programme which gives staff three days' paid leave to work for good causes.

By Ben Wilkinson

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

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To guarantee you fully enjoy the festivities this Christmas, Oxford Greyhound Stadium has launched a fantastic 'Early Bird offer' on their popular Christmas packages.

Whether you are celebrating with work, partying with friends or enjoying a traditional family Christmas, this fabulous 10% discount is an offer not to be missed – so book before the 30th September 2012 to take advantage of this amazing deal!

Are you sick of the usual boring Christmas meal or the lame Christmas Party? Why not organise something different to really look forward to this year? The 6-pack party package is ideal for those who want to get stuck into the action at the trackside. Catering for a party of 10 or more, you can enjoy admission, a racecard, drink and fast food meal, plus a bet and bonus offer – all from an impressive £12 per person.

Fancy enjoying spectacular panoramic views of the track, whilst indulging in a delicious three course meal? Then the Restaurant Package is just for you and from just £28.00 per person, you can celebrate in style this Christmas. And don't forget, with our excellent Tote and waiting staff on hand to take your orders, you won't need to leave your seat.

Or why not make a night of it and host your private function in our elegant Executive Suites? Enjoy the buzz and excitement exclusively amongst your guests; whilst relishing in the private dining and entertainment facilities. This package also offers a Christmas buffet and private bar, ensuring you can truly celebrate those victories.



A night at the dogs is the ultimate live entertainment experience with thrilling racing action alongside the restaurants, bars and betting booths – so make sure you book now to take advantage of this fantastic 10% discount.

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Love Christmas... Love the Dogs
CALL 0870 840 8903
CLICK www.lovethedogs.co.uk

InBRIEF**Book electric blanket tests**

N OXON: Residents will be able to have their electric blankets tested for safety in Banbury later this year.

Cherwell District Council has teamed up with fire chiefs to offer tests for electric blankets in October, before the cold nights roll in.

Faulty blankets caused two house fires in Oxfordshire last year, and 36 per cent of the 911 tested last year were found to have problems.

The result represented a three per cent improvement on the previous year.

Anyone wanting to book a test should email communityengagement@oxfordshire.gov.uk or call 01865 815607.

For information e-mail wendy.kingsbeer@cherwell-dc.gov.uk or call her on 01295 221628.

Bus change consultation

N OXON: A consultation on possible changes to bus services in Bicester and Banbury will be held in October.

Oxfordshire County Council will hold a routine review of cash it puts into services that private operators will not fully support.

Spokesman Paul Smith said it was too early to say which services will be affected by passenger numbers.

A consultation will run from October 22 to December 21 and a decision will be made by April 1.

Got a story? Then call 01865 425500

Brewery secures a deal with Norway



Joint managing director of Hook Norton Brewery, James Clarke

It's delight for Hookey at export distribution

BEER brewed at the Hook Norton brewery is set to become a lot cooler after the company signed a new distribution deal.

The historic brewery will see its award-winning beers sold across Norway after the agreement was struck with the Oslo-based Malting House.

The Norwegian Malting House specialises in importing strong and specialty beers sold in the country's hotels and restaurants.

The firm's director, Jon Smith Johnsen, said: "We are very happy to sign a distribution agreement with Hook Norton Brewery and look forward to marketing and selling its fantastic range of beers in Norway."

"I have visited breweries all over the world, but this little piece of magic that is Hook Norton Brewery is something special indeed. Only after visiting can one truly appreciate the heritage of the brewery and its excellent beers."

Mr Johnsen added that the brewery will sell bottled products initially before

By Andrew Smith
BUSINESS EDITOR

branching out into the supply of beers such as Old Hookey and Double Stout next year.

It is a major development for the brewery which started in 1849 and is one of only 32 independent family-run breweries in the country.

Hook Norton is also sold in countries including Australia, South Africa, Canada, Russia, Italy and Ireland, and bosses are hoping to increase the export business significantly.

Joint managing director Adrian Staley said: "The Norwegian deal could be significant for us as they are looking to take a keg beer.

"We are looking to double our export volume and seeking partners in various countries throughout the world."

The other joint managing director, James Clarke, is the great-great-grandson of the founder, John Harris.

Recently the brewery picked up five medals at the 2012 International Beer Challenge Awards, which recognise skilful brewing.

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InBRIEF**An offer for recyclers**

N OXON: Residents can now pick up reusable recycling bags at four places in the Cherwell district.

The bags for glass bottles and jars are available at stands at Cherwell District Council's Bodicote HQ in White Post Road; Castle Quay in Banbury; Bicester Market Square; Oxford Road, Kidlington, and libraries and leisure centres in the village and Banbury and Bicester.

The glass has to be disposed of at more than 90 recycling sites in the district. For information call 01295 227003.

Have a word with police

N OXON: Residents can discuss concerns and issues with their local police officers today. The Banbury Rural South team will be at Hook Norton Youth Club, Anvil House, High Street, from 5pm to 6pm.

Hearing tests

BANBURY: Specsavers is to offer free hearing tests in Castle Quay today as part of a pledge by the optician to carry out a million free checks across the UK.

Shoppers are urged to show bags of generosity

Left, Don Carter, manager of the British Heart Foundation store, and Nick James, duty manager of the Castle Quay shopping Centre, watch as Banbury Mayor Tony Ilott donates to the Bag-athon

BANBURY shoppers will be invited to "bag it" this weekend with a charity collection in Castle Quay shopping centre.

Staff from the British Heart Foundation will be collecting unwanted items to sell in its shops on Saturday and Sunday.

The Great British Bag-athon event was launched last weekend when Banbury Mayor Tony Ilott made a donation.

Items include some PlayStation 3 games he had finished, books, unwanted bath salts and unused hankerchiefs.

Mr Ilott said: "My father sadly died at the early age of 65 of a heart problem, so I am very much aware of the good work they do."

Duty centre manager Nick James said: "It's wonderful to see people in the local community getting involved in the campaign."

"Whether groups are getting together to donate five, 10, or 20 bags, or individuals are donating just one bag, it's all extremely gratefully received."

For information on the scheme's UK Great British Bag-athon campaign, visit bhf.org.uk/bagathon

Cherwell sees fall in number of offences**Crime levels drop by 12%**

RESIDENTS are still "unduly worried" about crime despite a drop in offending across Oxfordshire, according to a senior police officer.

Figures released by Thames Valley Police show crime has fallen by up to 18 per cent across the county.

The statistics are from April 1 to July 31 and are compared to the same four-month period last year.

In the Cherwell area, all crime fell by 12 per cent from 2,901 offences to 2,563.

Detection rates have gone up more significantly, rising from 26 to 34 per cent.

Although crime overall is down, a number of offences saw increases in certain parts of the county, in particular sex crimes.

Serious sexual offences in the Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire rose by 26 per cent from 27 to 34, with rape reports rising from 11 to 15, an increase of 36 per cent.

And only one in 10 of these

By Ben Wilkinson

resulted in a charge, caution or conviction, which means South and Vale district police have missed their target of one in three.

Overall crime in South and Vale is down though, by 18 per cent, from 3,766 offences last year to 3,091 this year.

More of these offences are being dealt with successfully, with a rise in detection rate — crimes that result in a caution, charge or conviction — from 24 per cent to 26 per cent.

In West Oxfordshire, the total number of offences fell by 12 per cent, from 1,461 crimes committed to 1,290.

Detections also rose slightly from 25 to 26 per cent.

Chief Inspector Colin Paine, area commander for the district, said: "It's early days, but overall I am pleased.

"Although this really is one of the safest places to live in England, some people remain unduly worried about crime."

"I hope these figures will go some way to reassure them."

But there have been slight rises in burglary, violence against the person with injury, and assault without injury.

Domestic burglaries have gone up from 33 to 36, violence against the person from 123 to 132, and assault without injury rose from 87 to 95.

Mr Paine added: "We've had three more burglaries than this time last year. To be fair, last year was the lowest level of burglaries on record."

He also said it was important residents reported suspicious activity to keep crime down.

Andy Viney, secretary of Thames Valley Police Federation, said last year the force cut about 100 police officers across the Thames Valley region and further cuts were expected.

He said: "There figures are to be celebrated. It shows how hard working the officers are in both the prevention and detection of crime."

"But with the austerity challenges we shouldn't be complacent."

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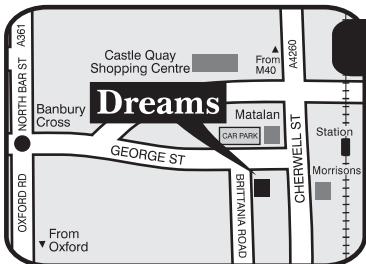
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InBRIEF**Three could face retrial**

BANBURY: Three directors of an IT firm could face a retrial after a jury failed to return verdicts in a four-month false accounting trial.

The Financial Services Authority prosecuted three former directors of iSoft Group for false accounting, but a jury could not reach verdicts at London's Southwark Crown Court.

The FSA has said it will consider its position regarding a possible retrial.

Timothy Whiston, 44, of Lymm, Stephen Graham, 48, of Knutsford, and John Whelan, 45, of Cheadle Hulme, denied conspiring to artificially inflate the value of the business, which at the time was based in Manchester.

A hearing is scheduled for September 7 when the FSA will confirm whether to proceed with a retrial.

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Consultation over NHS foundation bid 'going well'

Have a say on hospital status

By Oliver Evans

A CONSULTATION on major changes to how Oxfordshire hospitals are run – including Banbury's Horton Hospital – is "going well", according to NHS bosses.

And residents in the town who have yet to respond are being urged to give their views on the plans.

Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust has been holding consultation meetings on its bid to become a foundation trust since June.

It says the status will give it greater independence from Government on spending and management.

And county residents could become "members" to have a say in how the trust is run. They could also bid to join a board of governors.

Consultation events have been held in Abingdon, Faringdon, Oxford, Wantage, Didcot, Banbury, Chipping Norton and Witney.

Trust medical director Prof Edward Baker said: "The consultation is going well so far.

"We have had over 100 members of the public attend our public meetings so far and hope to speak to many more over the next few weeks.

"We are also receiving feedback through the post and from our online surveys.

"I would encourage anyone who has not yet given us their views but is interested in the future of their local hospitals to read our consultation document and give us their views."

Foundation trusts were first established in 2002 and the Government wants all types of NHS trusts to have foundation status by 2014.

By this time primary care trusts – which decide where NHS cash is spent – will have been abolished in favour of GP-led clinical commissioning groups.

Government regulator Monitor will need to approve the foundation trust bid.

Anita Higham, chairman of the Oxfordshire Local Involvement Network, the official county NHS watchdog, backed the foundation trust model.

She said: "I think the foundation trust concept encourages people to go around asking sensible questions.

"You get a much better quality of decisions with the views of those on the ground as to what is happening."

And she said giving managers more responsibility would mean they could not "blame" outside factors, like the Government, as much, she said.

Further meetings will be held from 6pm to 7.30pm:

■ Today at John Paul II Centre, Bicester

■ on Tuesday, September 11, at Baptist Church, Kidlington

■ on Tuesday, September 18, at Warwick Hall, Burford

■ on Thursday, September 20, at St Mary's Church, Banbury.

Visit ouh.nhs.uk/foundation-trust-ft-consultation.aspx

**In memory of runner**

A FUNDRAISING day has been held in memory of a London Marathon runner whose death prompted more than £1m to be raised for charity.

Saturday's Claire Squires Fun Day at Market Harborough Rugby Club raised more than £13,000 for Leicester child bereavement charity The Laura Centre.

The Leicestershire

resident, above, was running for the Banbury and District Samaritans – where mother Priscilla has volunteered – when she collapsed on the final stretch of the April 22 run.

Centre co-founder Gail Moore said: "We are very grateful to everyone that turned out.

"The amount of goodwill that was shown on the day was absolutely huge."

InBRIEF**Inquest into girl's death**

BANBURY: An inquest has been opened into the death of a 14-year-old whose body was found in a wooded area.

Molly O'Donovan's body was found in land off Foscote Rise on Tuesday, August 7, less than 24 hours after she was reported missing from her Hillside Close home in Banbury.

Police are not treating the death as suspicious.

An inquest was opened and adjourned in Oxford on Monday.

Recycling site is welcomed

CHIPPING NORTON: Plans for a new household recycling centre have been welcomed overwhelmingly in the district.

Almost 100 per cent of people who responded to a consultation on the district council's plans said they were in favour of the proposal.

West Oxfordshire District Council wants to develop a household recycling centre at Greystones, a former council depot on the outskirts of Chipping Norton.

Residents currently have to drive to Alkerton or Stanton Harcourt to dispose of items which aren't recycled at the kerbside.

Before submitting a planning application, the council held a public consultation last month, and about 200 responses were received.

A planning application will be submitted in the autumn.

Chance to get free insulation

N OXON: Householders are being urged to make use of a free insulation offer before it expires.

Chesterfield District Council is working to provide free loft and cavity wall insulation. It is urging people to sign up by September 30.

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Vending machine cuts out middle-men

Pop to pub for a pint...of milk



Adam Fleming, from Nell's Dairy, by the milk machine

A WEST Oxfordshire pub has embraced a new idea which a farmer hopes will revolutionise Britain's beleaguered milk industry.

The Kingham Plough has installed a vending machine which dispenses milk outside its premises near Chipping Norton. It sells a bottle of Guernsey milk for £2 produced at nearby Nell's Dairy, of Stow-on-the-Wold, Gloucestershire.

Dairy owner Adam Fleming hopes the facility will revolutionise the milk industry.

Kingham Plough owner and chef Emily Watkins said customers and residents loved the vending machine and the unique milk which it vends. She said: "It's going really well and it's really picking up. It's totally different from your usual bog-standard milk. It's really sweet."

By Freddie Whittaker

"We use about 20 litres of it a week. We use it to make all of our desserts and ice cream, and I've just made my own clotted cream from it too."

She said she hoped the use of milk vending machines caught on, to cut out the middle-men and give farmers more for their product.

She said: "The farmers have been caught out so badly over the years."

Milk farmers last month protested outside large milk distributors over falling payments to suppliers.

They said middle-men and supermarkets were paying less for a litre of milk than it cost farmers to produce it.

Mr Fleming said: "Watching what has happened to the dairy industry and knowing milk costs less than

sparkling water, and yet is such a key part of everyone's lives, makes me very angry.

"My son spotted a similar vending machine scrolling through the Internet, and we thought about the fact we have a farm and we had always wanted to go into dairy."

"Milk vending machines are popular in Europe because you can bring your own bottle and you don't have to worry about all the packaging."

He said the dairy was not yet making a profit from the scheme because it had yet to be rolled out to enough venues.

But he said customers would not be put off the price tag if they valued the quality of the product.

He said: "Guernsey milk is something really special. People are happy to pay £2 per litre, and I think things are going to start to change."

Relief as 70-home scheme refused

COUNCILLORS have thrown out a plan for 70 homes in Hook Norton, but approved a smaller scheme.

Cherwell District Council rejected the Taylor Wimpey scheme for 70 homes in a field north of The Bourne on Thursday. But it approved plans for 28 houses at the site of DJ Stanton engineering building in Station Road.

Officers recommended both plans be approved.

Barry Wood – also council leader – said rural plans must be thrown out even though the

council was not meeting Government housing targets.

This has seen developers argue for homes on rural sites as major schemes backed by the council are not being built.

He said: "Somebody somewhere has to put their heels in and say 'no more here'."

Hook Norton district councillor Victoria Irvine told members there was "real danger" to other areas if the plan went through. She said: "Villages should not have housing development put on them."

But Kathryn Ventham, for Taylor Wimpey, said its proposed 21 affordable homes were desperately needed.

Some 316 people objected to the Taylor Wimpey scheme with concerns about its impact on school class sizes, roads and wildlife.

Just six opposed the DJ Stanton plan.

Hook Norton Parish Council chairman David Shepley-Cuthbert said: "It is the best result we could have got in the circumstances."

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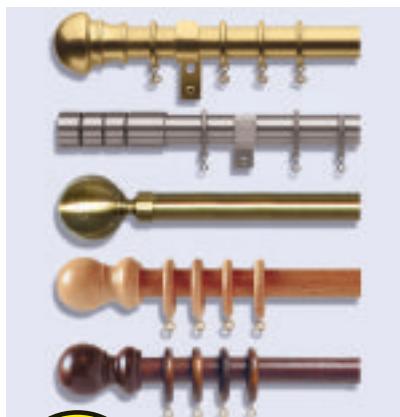
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Injury time frustration for United on opening day of the football season

Late drama denies Banbury a victory

BANBURY United were denied an opening-day Premier Division victory as St Albans City equalised deep into time added on at Spencer Stadium.

It capped a dramatic finish after Banbury had equalised in the 80th minute through Ricky Johnson's superb diving header from substitute Adeyinka Talabi's left-wing cross.

And eight minutes later, Johnson struck again, sending a deft header from the outstanding Ben Polk's free-kick looping over keeper Nick Jupp.

But St Albans were awarded a free-kick in the fifth minute of time added on. The ball was hoisted into a crowded penalty area, and following

Banbury Utd
(Johnson 80, 88)
St Albans City
(Toomey 45, Ujah 90+5)

a goalmouth scramble it broke to Curtis Ujah, who stabbed the ball home for an unlikely equaliser.

Banbury had started brightly with Josh O'Grady's free-kick being turned round a post by Jupp.

The resultant corner was turned into his own net by a St Albans defender, only for the referee to disallow the effort for an infringement.

Midway through the half, Banbury were unlucky when good work on the right between O'Grady and Luke

Cray saw the long floating centre come back off the crossbar.

Shortly after this, Banbury were denied a penalty when what appeared to be a deliberate handball was missed by the referee.

Banbury ended the half feeling hard done by as St Albans made the breakthrough in the first minute of first-half stoppage time when Lewis Toomey slotted home with ease.

St Albans had the upper hand for the second half, without carving out a decent chance, before the game came to its eventful conclusion.

Banbury Utd: Finlay, Cray, Ashton, Dolman, Lee, Polk, Howell (Kingston 68), Confue, Johnson (Lorraine 90+1), Woodley (Talabi 61), O'Grady.

Attendance: 253.



Banbury United's Ricky Johnson celebrates

Draw dents title hopes

BANBURY and Oxford fought out a high-scoring draw at Roman Way in the Serious Cricket Home Counties Premier League Division 1 on Saturday.

Any outside hopes Banbury had of pipping High Wycombe to the title are now surely over.

And Oxford still have it all to do if they are to avoid relegation.

Banbury opener Lloyd Sabin, pictured, provided the backbone of their 290-6.

The 18-year-old fell five short of a deserved century following a 148-ball innings.

Sabin shared a 103-run second-wicket partnership with Craig Haupt, before the latter was caught by Joe Porter off the bowling of Shamil Mendis for 51.

After Sabin fell, Jonny Cater hit a rapid 53 off 47 balls, which included three fours and three sixes, as Banbury set the visitors a tricky target.

Mendis was the pick of the Oxford bowlers with 4-119.

Despite gritty knocks from Ryan Canning (56), Jamie Perkin (51), Jonno Evans (47) and Stewart Laudat (43), Oxford were always up against it and closed on 255-8.

Luke Ryan took 4-94 and Jimmy Phillips 3-73 for Banbury.



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ARIES

Mar 21-Apr 19

Financial affairs take a turn for the better this week. There is a new feeling of optimism in this area of your life and you'd do well to take advantage of it. Close ones find you easier to get on with as you gradually relax into your new found security. Be careful to guard a friend's secrets well though. There is a lot riding on your discretion. Call me now for an in-depth look at your life.

0906 585 4360

TAURUS

Apr 20-May 20

Rumours which you don't want to believe may just be true. This information may take some getting used to but it is sure to see you making your life a better place to be. You find out who you can trust and who has been feeding you a pack of lies. Thursday and Friday are perfect for signing deals, contracts or even cheques. Give me a call now to hear why it's worth keeping that secret you've been told.

0906 585 4361

GEMINI

May 21-Jun 20

Slicking to promises is the key to you making sure you get back on track with a close one who has become tired of your empty promises. New friends make for a more interesting social set up but you may have to cross paths with someone you have never really warmed to in order to reach infiltrate the good crowd. Education and legal links bring good news. Ring now for the full story.

0906 585 4362

CANCER

Jun 21-Jul 22

Friends have the best invites as they know what excites you and what bores you by now. By that same token you may have to attend a work gathering which you know you won't enjoy just to get back on track with someone you clashed with in your career. Is it worth it? Yes it is Cancer, as the end of this month will soon prove. Call now to hear how Mars brings family closer.

0906 585 4363

LEO

Jul 23-Aug 22

Firations are not as innocent as they first seem so make sure you find out all the details before you embark on a path which could end up being the ruin of your reputation. So many people to please in your career but so little time to see them all. Be sure of your priorities before you make your promises so that you can't be labelled a liar. Ring me now to so I can tell you all about your future.

0906 585 4364

VIRGO

Aug 23-Sep 22

Money worries are getting on top of you and it's worth your while talking to someone you know you can trust so that you don't feel you are 'in this' alone. You've got more support and help than you think. You're not supposed to know everything and have to do everything on your own, so don't manipulate yourself in this way. Give me a call now to hear why romance and travel prove life changing.

0906 585 4365

LIBRA

Sep 23-Oct 22

A new opportunity and a bit of good luck makes this a better week than you've had in months. What have you done to deserve this? You've been honest Libra, which is all that your loved ones want from you. Errands you have to do for family will be greatly appreciated so don't let them down. You may have the favour returned. Ring now to hear why it's worth

an in-depth look at your life.

0906 585 4366

SCORPIO

Oct 23-Nov 21

What a new face courage puts on everything eh Scorpio? You've come a long way and you're about to reap some of the many benefits which come with the journey you've taken. You're thinking more about the past than usual this weekend but this is a good thing. You're putting it behind you and moving on to greater things. Ring now so I can share some good news with you.

0906 585 4367

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 22-Dec 21

You may have to learn and work at some things you do not enjoy but it's coming along quite nicely so don't back out when you have come so far. Links with foreign names or places prove lucky for you but may not meet with the approval of a close one. Jupiter, the planet of self-expansion, can do much to help you replenish those missing funds. Ring now for more on work and love.

0906 585 4368

CAPRICORN

Dec 22-Jan 19

The Sun is bringing out your more confident side which should allow you to deal with issues you usually shy away from. Try to put yourself in the company of those you find stimulating. You've done your best with those who needed you but they didn't give anything back and it's time to make yourself a priority. Call me now to hear how you enter September with amazing offers.

0906 585 4369

AQUARIUS

Jan 20-Feb 18

You may have to confess to something you would rather have swept under the carpet. The only problem Aquarius is that others already know more than you think from the beginning so you will only end up making yourself look the fool if you continue to lie. Family become more important and a dramatic announcement could see you planning a life change by the end of the year.

0906 585 4370

PISCES

Feb 19-Mar 20

There is no longer any room for speculation but it is a time for action. You've learnt the lessons you need, now it's time to put into practice what you know. Neptune helps you to realise a lost dream and you're finally back in the driving seat and no longer a passenger. The sooner you realise this the sooner you'll be able to touch your dreams. Call now for your week in full.

0906 585 4371

CakeLeisure

banburycake.co.uk/leisure

Sandi's going on the warpath

We know and love her for her Radio 4-friendly chuckles and charm.

But broadcaster Sandi Toksvig has surprised many by going to the dark side with her latest play: *Bully Boy*.

Landing at Northampton's Royal & Derngate this week, the play hones in on the thorny topic of post-war trauma.

But as for the shellshock of several critics confronted with her departure from comedy — how does she handle that? In her usual matter-of-fact way, of course.

"Even when you write jokes, you have a serious intent about what you are writing, so tackling a serious subject doesn't seem at all odd to me," says Sandi.

"I still believe the theatre is where we go to listen to ideas. I have been passionate about theatre all my life and love it."

The plot follows Falklands War veteran Major Oscar Hadley, who is sent to a combat zone to probe allegations of severe misconduct by Eddie Clark, a young squaddie from Burnley and part of a self-styled 'Bully Boy' unit of the British army. As the interrogation develops, the two men bond as they try to come to terms with the horrors they have both experienced at war.

Of course Sandi Toksvig is no

By Liz Nicholls

stranger to controversy — in 2003 she stood as a candidate in the election for the Chancellor of the University of Oxford, supporting a campaign against student fees. And so it is refreshing to hear she relishes the opportunity to pour scorn on politicians such as Thatcher and Blair in *Bully Boy*.

Actor Anthony Andrews, best known from defining Oxford-based *Brideshead Revisited*, heads the cast in this Made In Northampton co-production. Anthony, who gained national recognition for his role as the charming but fatally flawed Sebastian Flyte, plays the Major, with the role of Eddie taken by Joshua Miles.

David Gilmore and Patrick Sandford direct and after its run in Northampton, the play will transfer to the St James Theatre in London, launching its inaugural season.

The heartfelt play will be led by internationally acclaimed director David Gilmore, who has directed more than a dozen West End productions, including *Beyond Reasonable Doubt* and *The Resistible Rise Of Arturo Ui*.

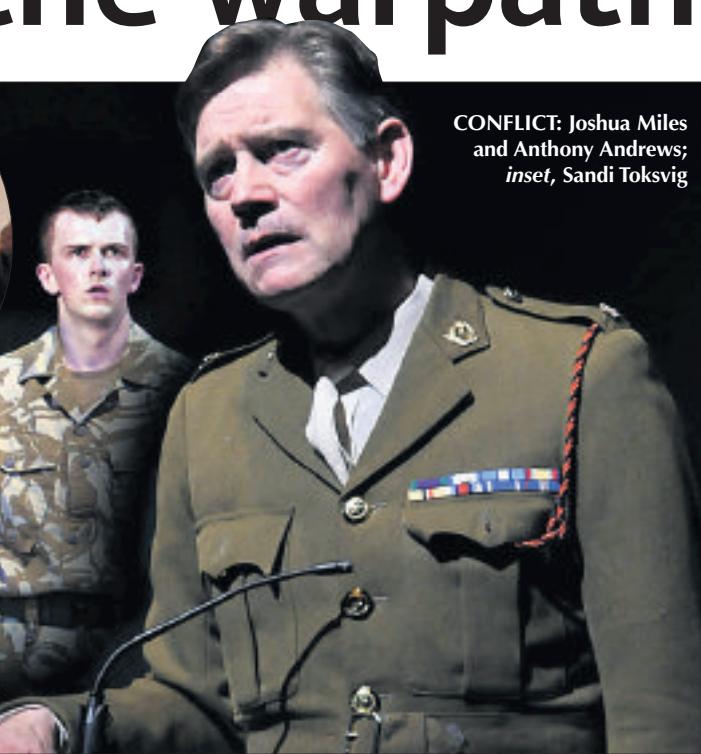
Bully Boy can be seen in Northampton from Friday (August

24) to Saturday, September 15. Tickets priced from £28 to £13 can be booked now by calling the box office on 01604 624811 or visiting www.royalandderngate.co.uk.

■ CALLING all Dickens fans! Royal & Derngate is looking for talented children to join its professional cast in this year's *A Christmas Carol* which runs from November 28 to January 6. Auditions will take place at the theatre on Wednesday (August 29).

Director Gary Sefton is looking for girls and boys aged between eight and 14 to play various children, including Tiny Tim. Boys and girls need to have good movement, singing and acting ability, as well as being enthusiastic and having bags of personality. Rehearsals start on October 22 and children must be available for these performances.

Visit www.royalandderngate.co.uk or contact Meryl Couper on 01604 655774, or email meryl.couper@royalandderngate.co.uk



CONFLICT: Joshua Miles and Anthony Andrews; inset, Sandi Toksvig

Interesting thread for show

■ A NEEDLECRAFT exhibition promises to turn the art form on its head at The Mill Arts Centre.

The Textiles Showcase was launched last week at a private view in which sketchbooks — with stitching as part of the intrinsic designs and original ideas — provided insight into the genesis of the many works on display.

The exhibition is part of a collection created by students of textiles expert and tutor Sue Green, who runs several classes for people of all abilities at the Spiceball Park arts and education venue.

"The pieces in the exhibition are all by students of my four craft classes at The Mill — about 45 students in total," said Ms Green.

"They all work on shared projects but some follow individual ideas which I assist them with.

"It is a two-way thing because as much as they want professional guidance, I also learn from them as they experiment."

The show at The Mill includes three-dimensional work and unusual materials such as plastic bags and strips of net curtaining.

The walls of the foyer gallery are adorned by many attractive, eye-catching pieces of textile work. Among the displays on the walls



are mixed-media samples, incorporating printing with stitching, examples of machine stitching at its best and a number of hand-sewn pieces.

"I consider hand stitching to be an elementary skill which I like my students to master in order to be able to go on to achieve the most exciting and fulfilling work they are capable of," said Ms Green.

As well as her regular weekly textiles classes, Ms Green runs seasonal day workshops on some of the more specialist aspects of textiles and their use in art.

She was one of the central tutors in last summer's community project Ride a Cock Horse, in which individuals with experience of mental health problems worked with artists and craftspeople to create a large, textile banner decorated on the theme of the Banburyshire nursery rhyme, and still exhibited in local venues.

The scheme was a successful collaboration between The Mill, The Elms and MIND.

The Textiles Showcase can be seen at The Mill until September 8. Pop in or call 01295 252050.

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Watch out, this film is a complete mess

THE WATCH (15, 102 minutes)
Comedy/Sci-Fi/Action/Romance.
Ben Stiller, Vince Vaughn, Jonah Hill, Richard Ayoade, Rosemarie DeWitt, Billy Crudup, Will Forte, Erin Moriarty, Nicholas Braun, Joe Nunez. Director: Akiva Schaffer.

AS LAW-ABIDING citizens, we rely on the police to protect us from the shadier elements of society who would intentionally do our families harm.

However, resources are finite, so residents are sometimes compelled to take matters into their own hands.

These days millions of people willingly give up their free time through Neighbourhood Watch schemes to assist local police with their investigations and provide support to the elderly and vulnerable.

The Watch pits one such coalition of concerned residents against a full-blown alien invasion in the fictional idyll of Glenview, Ohio.

It's a preposterous premise, ripe with humorous potential.

Unfortunately, screenwriters Jared Stern, Seth Rogen and Evan Goldberg throw a relationship sex comedy and a goofy buddy movie into the mix and this pot pourri of competing genres creates an almighty stink.

Director Akiva Schaffer is poorly equipped to find method in the script's madness and his film implodes before the computer-generated E.T.s have phoned home to beckon the otherworldly armada.

The unlikely hero is Evan (Ben Stiller), manager of a Costco wholesale store in Glenview, which he considers to be "the greatest

Lighting up Jonah Hill, Ben Stiller, Richard Ayoade and Vince Vaughn in *The Watch*



town in the greatest country on the greatest planet".

Evan is at the heart of the community, chairing a number of clubs and societies, and he dotes on wife Abby (Rosemarie DeWitt), who is desperate for a child.

When the store's security guard, Antonio (Joe Nunez), is murdered, Sergeant Bressman (Will Forte) and his team fail to apprehend the culprit.

So Evan organises his own neighbourhood watch to bring the guilty party to justice.

Overly protective father Bob (Vince Vaughn), who spies on his teenage daughter Chelsea (Erin Moriarty), wannabe police officer

Franklin (Jonah Hill) and Brit abroad Jamarcus (Richard Ayoade) join Evan's crusade, bonding over beers as they hunt for clues.

Little do the hapless do-gooders realise that the person they are chasing is an extra-terrestrial warrior, who has landed on Earth to wipe out the human race.

The Watch misfires on every level, failing to generate laughs or excitement as Evan and his dysfunctional pals search for extraterrestrials in their midst.

Stiller plies his usual sweetness while Vaughn's loud-mouthed routine grates to the point that we pray his character is slaughtered by the invaders.

CakeWhat's on

Music

SATURDAY: Social Club, Astrop Road, Middleton Cheney: Gary Beckwith, singer and guitarist. 7.15pm. £4, members £2. 01295 721220.

SUNDAY: Social Club, Astrop Road, Middleton Cheney: Chris Andrews, singer and instrumentalist. 7.15pm. £4, members £2. 01295 721220.

Cinema

Odeon, Horsefair, Banbury: *Brave*, PG, daily 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 5.45pm; (3-D) daily 10.45pm. *Ted*, 15, daily 9pm. *The Bourne Legacy*, 12A, daily 1.45, 6.30pm. *Keith Lemon — The Movie*, 15, daily 4.30, 9.15pm. Senior Screen: *Jaws*, 12A Wed 11am. *Odeon Kids: Top Cat*, U, Fri-Tues, Thurs 11am. 0871 224 4007.

The Theatre, 2 Spring Street, Chipping Norton: *The Apartment*,

PG, Sun 7.30pm. 01608 642350

Theatre

RSC Theatre, Waterside, Stratford-Upon-Avon:

May 9-Oct 6, *The Comedy of Errors*. Part of the World

Shakespeare Festival 2012. Shakespeare's joyful comedy of mistaken identity follows the fortunes of two sets of identical twins, accidentally separated at birth, then miraculously thrown together again. In a town the size of Ephesus, events like these can only lead to confusion. 0844 800 1110.

Events

SATURDAY: Before I Die: The Gallery, The Theatre, Spring Street, Chipping Norton. Last day to see this interactive international public art project that invites people to share their hopes and

dreams in public space. The brainchild of American artist Candy Chang. Come and share your thoughts on the wall. 11am-3pm. 01608 642350 Mon-Fri 10-6pm, Sat 10am-2pm.

Walk: The Worlidge (about half-a-mile outside Brackley on the road to Hase on a bend), Brackley (SP576394). Meet 10pm for this night walk. A leisurely five-mile circular night walk in the area. Sorry no dogs. 07527 758788.

SUNDAY: Stay and play fun day: Memorial Hall, Astrop Road, Kings Sutton. 10am-12pm. Ever wondered what baby/toddler classes and groups are in your area? Take part in mini-taster classes by variety of groups, suitable for newborns to preschoolers. There will be craft and retail stalls and plenty of fun activities. Just £2 per child to include a drink, biscuit or piece of fruit. 10am-12pm. 07906 055 591.

Win tickets

JUST so you feel like you really are at the movies, the Banbury Cake and Odeon Cinema Banbury have teamed up to offer you the chance to catch up on the latest action blockbusters, sci-fi epics and family favourites.



Yes, every week in the Banbury Cake we'll be offering free tickets to go and see some of the silver screen's must-see movies. And this week, we're offering a pair of tickets to see *The Watch*, or any other film, showing at the Odeon cinema in Horsefair.

To stand a chance of winning, correctly answer the following question:

■ ***The Watch* star Ben Stiller, above, appeared in which comedy film:**

- a. Meet the Parents?
- b. Meet thy Maker?
- c. Meat and Potatoes?

Email your answer to jeremy.smith@nqo.com by noon, next Monday.

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CakeProperty

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Cottage on the market

By Gill Oliver

A PRETTY Victorian cottage near Banbury has been extended and refurbished to create a light and airy family home.

Shire Cottage, in Somerton, is in a private lane, not overlooked, and backs on to open land which shows the remains of the old manor house.

The living room is dual aspect with a window seat and an open fireplace.

Downstairs, there is a bathroom with a roll-top bath, a kitchen and a living/dining area which is large and light.

The dining area also has a pitched slate roof with the oak timbers and exposed walls.

To the rear, there is a sun room with doors leading to the exterior and gardens.

There is also a studio/home office with much of the stone exposed which overlooks the garden.

Upstairs, there are three double bedrooms, two of which are double aspect and one of them has an open fireplace.

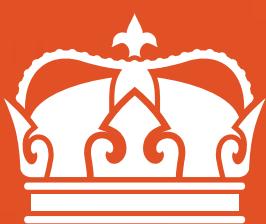
Plans have been drawn up to create a shower room in the main bedroom.

The landscaped gardens, including a gravel area at the front for parking and the back garden, is mostly laid to lawn. It is flanked by a stone wall to the rear and set up to provide a sun-trap seating area in one corner. There are also several trees and a timber shed.

Shire Cottage is on the market for £399,950. For more information, or to arrange a viewing, call 01869 343 600 or visit the estate agent's website at www.cridlands.co.uk



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FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Births

PALMER LACEY & STEVE

A Beautiful Baby Girl

SUMMER - ELIZABETH VALERIE

A Sister for P.J & Thomas

Born Mon 20th August 2012

7lb 9½ oz.

Congratulations
From
Both Families
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Special Thanks

MILLER Kenneth Roy

Joyce, Wendy, Barry and family would like to thank family and friends for the lovely cards and donations in his memory.

Special thanks to Ian at Humphris Funeral Directors and Doris Tresise for the lovely service.

£415 was collected for the Heart/Lung Bypass Fund.

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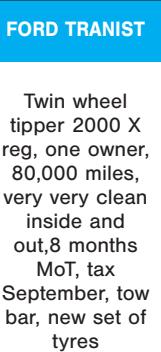
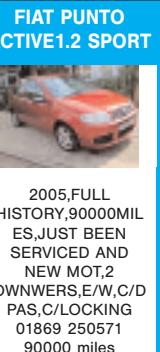
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